for this exercise. The objective of this exercise is to attract substantial private investment and upgrade these airports to international class.

(c) AAI has appointed a financial consultant to advise in the process of privatisation through long-term lease. The selection and appointment of a legal consultant is in progress.

Concessions offered in IA and AI

5339. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of different types of concessions extended to different categories by Government for those travelling in Indian Airlines and Air India flights;

(b) whether there is any fare concession for senior citizens and handicapped persons; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Details of discount offered to different categories of passengers by Indian Airlines are: (i) Concession to Armed Forces, Ex-Armed Forces Recipients of Highest Bravery Award, General Reserve Engineering Force Personnel, War Disabled Officers and War Widows; (ii) Promotional fares for Civilians—Recipient of Gallantary Award, Family Fare on Calcutta—Port Blair, Chennai Port Blair routes, Senior Citizen Discount (50%), Sports Persons discount, Student Concession, (iii) Concessions to Blind Persons (50%), Cancer Patients, Invalid Passenger—Stretcher cases, Locomotor Disability cases and (iv) Promotional Fares on Dollar Tariff such as Discover India Fares, India Wonder Fares, Ships Crew Fare (Individual) and Youth Fare.

Air India has various Promotional and Special Fares available on all international sectors which are considerably cheaper than normal fares. Air India has also competitive market fares for international and domestic travel, which are also applicable to the physically handicapped/blind citizens.

R.C. Jain Committee Report

5340. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the R.C. Jain Committee was originally set up to look into the death of a small girl in an escalator at IGIA;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Committee has recently been entrusted to look into some more items;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) by when the Committee is likely to submit its report covering all those items including problems of coordination between various agencies at the airport and the issue of privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) R.C. Jain Committee, besides looking into the death of a small girl in an escalator accident at IGI airport, was entrusted to look into following aspects of airport functioning and give recommendations for systemic improvements in respect of:—

(i) airport maintenance systems, (ii) coordination between different agencies functioning at the airport and their effectiveness in the context of overall airport management, (iii) the response systems in case of an accident/ emergency, (iv) functioning of various facilities from the point of view of overall safety of passengers especially during emergencies, (v) sensitisation of personnel of different departments/organisations while reacting to various kinds of emergencies, (vi) any other area of overall functioning of major airports.

In February, 2000 the Committee was also asked to look into security operations at the airports. The Committee has submitted its interim report on 7.2.2000 to the Government. The time for submission of final report has been extended to 30th June, 2000.

Misuse of air fare concessions given to handicapped persons

†5341. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that concessions given to the handicapped persons in fare are being extremely misused;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step to prevent the misuse of the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.